EXPLORE Reading Response for: Past Crimes

I have just finished reading the first chapter in the mystery novel Past Crimes written by Carol Matas. This chapter is about Ros Green waking up in a hospital bed and remembering that she and her acquaintance Dr. Graham were shot outside of her house in Palm Springs when he was dropping her off after his son’s birthday dinner. She can’t accept it and closes her eyes to think, she thinks about her deceased husband Saul and when he hugged her and she wished he was there.

The author’s purpose of the first chapter was to the characters Rosaline Green (Ros) and Detective Allan Pauls, also the supporting characters such as Dr. Graham, Jordan, Beth, Nate, and Saul. The first chapter also explained that Ros and Dr. Graham had been shot, Ros was recovering in the hospital and that Ros’ husband Saul was dead. My purpose for reading this book was to have a leisurely read and so that I would have a book to use to do my EXPLORE reading response.

Some key lines worth remembering from the first chapter are Rosaline Green (Ros), Detective Allan Pauls, Palm Springs, and “Mrs. Green. Mrs Green. You are in the hospital. You have been shot.” The name Ros Green, pg.11, is important because she is the main character. Another name worth remembering is Detective Pauls, pg.11, because he is the detective who is investigating Ros’ case and he is one of the most important supporting characters. The name Palm Springs, pg.15, is important because it is the name of the place where this story takes place. The quote “Mrs. Green. Mrs. Green. You are in the hospital. You have been shot.”, pg.10, is worth remembering because it is the line that makes Ros realize she is in the hospital and helps her remember what happened when she was shot. It also sets into motion the series of attacks that play out against Ros and her loved ones in the story.

One organizational feature that I like was the little dream at the very beginning of the chapter. It helped me to think about what the book might be about and made me think how it connected to the story. I also like how Ros remembers things as little side stories, it helped me to have a better understanding of what was happening in the chapter and to peace together the pieces of information.

I can relate to the first chapter because the story takes place in Palm Springs. I previously read a book that was written by Carol Matas in the Freak mini series called Far. It too took place in Palm Springs. The main character Jade went to Palm Springs for a vacation and she visited a University to take part in a study on psychics. Strange accidents start happening and it seems Jade is in danger. She finds out that the person trying to harm her was the boy who had been her partner in the psychic tests.

My ah-ha moment was when I realized who Saul was at the end of the chapter. Ros had mentioned the name Saul earlier in the chapter and I kept wondering who that was. At the end of the chapter Ros has a dream about Saul and I realized Saul was her husband. I can connect to this chapter because in it Ros says that Dr. Graham always had funny jokes. That reminded me of Lizelle, she is always telling jokes, and making funny faces that make me laugh.